

Farm Bureau Granted Use of Arsenal Land for Soil Tests

By ROBERT W. RICHARDS

Washington, May 7. (Copley Press Leased Wire)—The Will County Farm Bureau today was notified by Illinois Rep. Noah M. Mason (R-Oglesby) that its request for the use of 80 acres of the Joliet arsenal tract for soil conservation research had been approved by the department of defense.

Frank Loucks, president of the Farm Bureau, and Charles Shu-

man, president of the Illinois Agricultural association, had appealed to Rep. Mason last March 23 to seek the necessary authority for transfer of the acreage for agricultural experiments.



THE 15TH district legislator immediately contacted officials in the department of agriculture and the military establishment.

The agriculture department, which will conduct the research thru the Will county bureau, concurred at once and joined in urging the army command to permit the plot to be taken over along with the Joliet arsenal's building 736, for the studies of conserving soil.

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Pick, chief of the army's corps of engineers, today informed Rep. Mason the request had been granted. The Oglesby Republican telegraphed Loucks the good news at once.

The head of the engineers corps had but a short time earlier advised Mason that "decision" on his plea for the arsenal land for farm research "rests with higher authorities". But Gen. Pick did not identify them.

HE ADDED, however, that if permission is approved "prompt action will be taken for use of the property by the department of agriculture or its representatives", in this case the Will County Farm Bureau.

Mason had assumed the matter was in the hands of Defense Secretary Louis A. Johnson since the army department, which owns the arsenal, is without a secretary or undersecretary since the resignation of Former Secretary Kenneth Royall and Undersecretary William A. Draper, Jr.

In his previous letter, Gen. Pick had said some doubt existed about the costs of moving building 736 to the experimental site, but today he okayed its use also, Mason said.

Sanction of the Will county project also had been forthcoming, the congressman added, from Undersecretary of Agriculture Albert J. Loveland.